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OFFER 26 C

1936?

AUTUMN RARITIES



REX. D. PEARCE : MERCHANTVILLE
NEW JERSEY

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Ray Magnuden
47 Elm Ave.
Jackson Park
Ind.



MY TERMS OF BUSINESS

All seeds, but not bulbs, are sent postpaid. Safe arrival is guaranteed.

I try to send out only good seeds, but I cannot control the conditions of planting. I give no warranty, express or implied, as to description, quality, productiveness, or any other matter of any seeds, bulbs, or plants I sell, and I will not be responsible for the crop.

Please remit by money order if possible, or by personal check. Order minimum should be fifty cents. No C. O. D. shipments made. Stamps will be accepted for small amounts only.

REX. D. PEARCE

Merchantville

New Jersey

AUTUMN SOWING

Seeds of certain rockery and border perennials, of many bulbs, shrubs, and trees seem to be benefited by a period of exposure to low temperature. The best way to handle such seeds is to sow them in open ground seed beds, or in cold frames, in late autumn. The seed bed should be lightly mulched with peat moss, straw or litter during the colder months, to keep it from drying out, and to prevent frost heaving.

WINTER SOWING

Sowing may be done just as long as the ground can be worked. In the North this usually means November or December, but in regions with open winters, sowings may also be made in January and February, or even in early March. Wherever you may live, should the ground freeze before you can sow, you may simulate actual ground sowing with much the same benefit by stratifying alternate layers of seeds and damp sand or peat moss. This should be done in an unheated shed, the pile covered with litter to prevent drying, and all left until early spring, when the treated seeds may be sown outside for quick germination.

TWO THOUSAND RARITIES

My general catalog now offers seeds of some twenty-one hundred unusual plants having ornamental or economic value. Included in it are a large number of kinds that either may or should be sown in late autumn for spring germination. These kinds are marked with the key letters "y" or "h". In making up your order, please be sure to check through the general catalog for such, as well as through the present folder.

The latest general catalog is No. 25. All old customers are supposed to have a copy, but if you have lost or mislaid it, I shall be glad to send another.

SEEDS OF WILD FLOWERS

I have made up a special mixture of seeds of true wild flowers, mostly American, but a few other temperate zone species are included. Altogether the blend contains about four hundred kinds, of course in varying proportions. These are Wild Flowers, not mixtures of garden flowers for wild sowing. You will enjoy them. $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. 35c; 1 oz. \$1.00; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. \$3.75.



SEEDS FOR THE ROCK GARDEN

So many of the true alpine, not all of them of course, need late autumn sowing to give them the right start. In their native mountain meadows there is naturally a long covering of snow over the fallen seeds, these starting to germinate as the snows melt in the spring. Many of the species suited to the rock garden, that are not alpine, seem to be helped also by late sowing and winter cold, germinating quickly and strongly the following spring when so handled.

DODECATHEON BLEND—Shooting Star. Fragrant Cyclamen-like flowers in pink, rose, purple, crimson and white. Pkt. 15c.

TRAILING ARBUTUS—*Epigaea repens*. Prettiest, and almost rarest, flower of early spring, pink-and-white, like fallen apple-blossoms. Deliciously perfumed. A bit slow in germinating. Have patience. Pkt. 25c.

MALVASTRUM COCCINEUM—Blossoms of flame-copper on silvery foliage-tufts. Pkt. 15c.

NOTOTHLASPUM ROSULATUM—Rare plant of New Zealand screes. Piled rosettes of thick, fat, over-lapping leaves culminate in dense pyramids of creamy, fragrant flowers. Pkt. 20c.

LEWISIA BLEND—Many-petalled blossoms of cup form, like feathery Water Lilies, pink to apricot, above rosettes of succulent foliage that may be crisped, undulate, bronzed-tinted. Pkt. 20c.

CACTUS HARDY BLEND—Here are thoroughly winter-hardy kinds in wide variety of intriguing form and brilliant blossom. There will be those that branch pad on pad, others that are ribbed and ovalled columns, those, too, that simulate clustered cushions (pin-cushions). Flowers may be tawny buff, orange-tinted lemon, or purest yellow, with others of most vivid rose. There are no better rock plants. 15 seeds for 15c; 50 for 40c; 100 for 75c; 250 for \$1.65.

AQUILEGIA REUTERI—Flowers of magnificent blue-violet swing on gracefully branching stems. A rare but easy Columbine that will glorify the rock garden or the front of the perennial border. Pkt. 15c.

ANEMONE DECAPETALA—An exquisite little Wind-flower of late spring that will do easily in sun or shade. The ten-petalled blossom chalice is usually a rosy carmine, with bunched golden stamens, but may vary from cream to purple. Pkt. 15c.

RUELLIA CILIOSA—Long-tubed blossoms of silky lavender, like widely flaring trumpets. Blooms all summer long, is fully winter-hardy, and thrives in sun and drought. Altogether pleasing in rockery or border. Pkt. 20c.

OFFER 26A1—One pkt. each of above for \$1.45.

THE FRINGED GENTIAN

There is no more beautiful flower in its time than *Gentiana crinita*, with its deeply fringed petals of charming misty indigo. Seeds sown in late autumn are rather sure to germinate next spring. Pkt. 15c; spec. pkg. 35c.

THE NEW HARDY BORDER

Wonder why it is that we associate only old-fashioned flowers with the hardy border when there are many newer, more unusual kinds just as lovely. We need both the old and the new, for after all that which is now old, once was new; and we should not lose the adventurous urge that our fathers had. If Hollyhocks had been their limitation, we should never have known the charm of the Bleeding Heart, novelty of the "fifties."

BAPTISIA VILLOSA—A splendid new Baptisia, with great spikes of golden pea-flowers, the showy clusters bowing over with their own weight. Thrives in full sun, and any soil that is not too heavy. No lime. Pkt. 20c.

ALLIUM SPHAEROCEPHALUM — Big fluffy flower-balls of velvety mulberry red, rich and dark, top each slender three-foot stem. Excellent and easy. Pkt. 20c.

ASTER HYBRIDUS LUTEUS—Countless starry blossoms that open pure yellow, gradually becoming creamy white. Three feet. Very good. Called Yellow Hardy Aster, but probably it is a cross between *Aster linosyris* and *Solidago missouriensis*. Pkt. 20c.

MECONOPSIS BLEND—Here we gain the diaphanous petals, like crinkly silk, of the exquisite Blue Poppies of the Orient. A blend of many species, mostly with blue flowers, but including white, lemon and rose. Not of the easiest culture, but nevertheless quite possible from seeds sown in fall or winter. Pkt. 15c.

NUTTALLIA DECAPETALA—Evening Lily. Ivory white blossoms of giant size, for many months. Each flower is decorated with a great tassel of golden stamens. Biennial, but sow in late fall or winter in open ground and it will bloom freely and long the next summer. A spectacular beauty. Pkt. 15c; 1/8 oz. 50c.

GENTIANA PORPHYRIO—Ragged flowers of richest ultramarine, up-facing. No lovelier Gentian than this. Acid soil. Autumn blooming. Long-lived. Pkt. 20c.

PENTSTEMON SECUNDIFLORUS SELECTIONS—Charming for cutting, or decorative in border. Great one-sided, long-lasting spikes of bloom above crispy foliage. Charmingly varied, from delicate flesh tints, through rich pink and deep rose, to lilac, lavender and blue-purple. Pkt. 15c.

EREMURUS BLEND—The magnificent Foxtail Lily. Superb spikes, to eight feet, packed with hundreds of starflowers in white, pink, rose, yellow, orange, even autumn brown. 25 seeds for 20c; 100 seeds for 65c; 500 seeds, \$2.50.

PARADISEA LILIASTRUM—The exquisite Lily of Paradise. Flowers of rarest purest whiteness. One should grow great banks of it. Often flowers first summer from sowings made previous autumn. Pkt. 15c.

POLEMONIUM CARNEUM — Lovely sprays of wide bells that may be apricot-tinted cream, salmon pink, or even cherry rose; a sort of after-glow blending that is most charming. Luxuriant foliage of fern effect. Pkt. 15c; 1/8 oz. 75c.

OFFER 26B2—One pkt. each of above for \$1.60.

LILIES FROM SEED

Lilies grow rather readily from autumn-sown seed. Circular of cultural directions sent with each lot. Here is a condensed price-list of selected kinds. For full descriptions of 80 different Lilies, with offerings of the seed, see pages 24 and 25 of my general catalog, No. 25. Ask for a copy if you do not have one.

LILIUM AURATUM—Snowy white, gold-banded gorgeously. Pkt. 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. 60c; 1oz. \$2.00.

LILIUM COLCHICUM — Fragrant butter-cup yellow. Pkt. 20c; special pkg. 50c.

LILIUM CONCOLOR—Red Star Lily. Fine dwarf. Pkt. 15c; spec. pkg. 35c; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. 75c.

LILIUM CROCEUM—Radiant orange. Pkt. 15c.

LILIUM DAVURICUM — Candlestick Lily. Variable, buff, apricot, orange, scarlet, maroon. Mixed colors only. Easy. Good. Pkt. 20c; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. \$1.10.

LILIUM HENRYI—Rich deep amber. Fine in every way. Pkt. 15c; special pkg. 35c; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. 85c; 1 oz. \$3.00.

LILIUM HYB. GOLDEN GLEAM — Like a Tenuifolium, with waxen blossoms of richest honey-orange. Quick and easy from seed. Pkt. 20c; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. \$1.00.

LILIUM JAPONICUM—Fragrant soft pink. Pkt. 15c; special pkg. 35c; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. 90c.

LILIUM KAMTSCHATKENSE—Whorls of velvety purple-black bells. Pkt. 15c; special pkg. 35c; $\frac{1}{8}$ oz. 75c.

LILIUM MARTAGON—Wine purple. Pkt. 15c; special pkg. 35c; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. 90c.

LILIUM MARTAGON ALBUM — Waxen white. Pkt. 20c; spec. pkg. 50c; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. \$1.00.

LILIUM MAXIMOWICZI—Like a refined Tiger Lily of better color tone. Good. Pkt. 15c; spec. pkg. 35c; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. 90c.

LILIUM NEW HYBRIDS — Buff, gold and orange, with varied purple and apricot pink suffusions. Pkt. 25c; special pkg. 60c.

LILIUM PARDALINUM — Robust. Brilliant orange and crimson. Pkt. 15c; $\frac{1}{8}$ oz. 50c; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. 90c.

LILIUM PARRYI—Fragrant lemon yellow. Pkt. 25c; special pkg. 60c.

LILIUM POMPONIUM—Glorious glossy scarlet. Pkt. 25c; special pkg. 60c.

LILIUM PRIDE OF CHARLOTTE—Lovely new hybrid, Regale-like, but later. Pkt. 20c; special pkg. 50c.

LILIUM REGALE— $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. 25c; 1 oz. 65c.

LILIUM SHELBURNE HYBRID—Fine Regale-Sargentiae cross. Pkt. 20c; special pkg. 50c; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. \$1.00.

LILIUM SPECIOSUM MAGNIFICUM—Sparkling carmine rose. Pkt. 20c; $\frac{1}{8}$ oz. 60c; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. \$1.00.

LILIUM TENUIFOLIUM—Coral. Early. Pkt. 10c; special pkg. 25c; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. 50c; 1 oz. \$1.50; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. \$5.00.

LILIUM THOMSONIANUM — Satiny rose-pink. Pkt. 25c; special pkg. 60c.

LILIUM WILMOTTIAE—Ruddy apricot. Pkt. 20c; special pkg. 50c; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. \$1.00.

OFFER 26A4—One pkt. each of above for \$4.25.

THE GORGEOUS IRISES

Iris seeds sown in fall will usually germinate strongly following spring. My general catalog offers seeds of 73 Iris species and strains. Here are a few.

IRIS ARENARIA — Very early; very dwarf. Bronze buds, orange flowers. Dainty. Pkt. 20c.

IRIS ATROPURPUREA — Flowers like black velvet, with touch of yellow. Rare. Palestine. Pkt. 15c.

IRIS CRISTATA — Blossoms like pale blue crumpled silk. Gold-patched; white-crested. Dwarf. Pkt. 20c.

IRIS DELTA BLEND—If I could grow but one class of Irises it would be this. Wonderfully variable and magnificently beautiful. See page 21 of general catalog for full description. 10 seeds 25c.

IRIS DWARF HYBRIDS—Flowers of "German" Iris size, color and form, but on dwarf plants. Very early. Extra fine. Pkt. 20c; $\frac{1}{8}$ oz. 50c.

IRIS DE VITRY HYBRIDS—Giant Irises in pastel tones, lilac, fawn, buff, tawny wine and the like. Unique. Pkt. 15c.

IRIS HYACINTHINA—Foliage fountains. Flowers like sapphire butterflies. Pkt. 15c.

IRIS OCHROLEUCA GIGANTEA—Ivory white flowers, banded with gold. Makes a magnificent showing. Pkt. 20c.

IRIS ORIENTAL BOUQUET—An early flowering strain of long-stemmed Irises, parentage undetermined, but belonging apparently in the general *Orientalis-Sibirica* sub-section. The flowers are carried on three to four-foot stems, high above the somewhat glaucous foliage. The colorings are most attractive, and intriguingly variable, scarcely any two plants being alike. Some will be pure blue, others azure, purple, or white with amethystine shadings. The blade and claw are usually mahogany-marked, this extending to a netting on the falls. Recommended particularly for cutting, but good in border, too. May-blooming. Pkt. 15c; $\frac{1}{8}$ oz. 30c; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. 50c.

OFFER 26B6—One pkt. each of above for \$1.40.

MONARCH OF THE EAST (*Sauromatum*)

A most surprising flower. Store the dry tubers in the cellar until late February, when they may be placed in the north or east window of a not-too-warm room. In a few days' time long ivory-colored buds will push out from the tubers, soon opening to immense rose-tinted, purple-streaked flower-spathes of most curious form. Remember all this is from the dry tuber, no soil, no water, no planting, just exposure to light and warmth toward spring. After the tubers have finished flowering, they may be planted out in the garden, where they will grow spectacular foliage during the summer months, enormous digitate leaves carried high on marbled stems. In late fall, dig and store again in the cellar. This interesting plant is a species of *Sauromatum*, a rather distant cousin of the *Calla*, coming from India. Good tubers, 60c each, two for \$1.00; 10 for \$9.00.

HARDY PINK SPIDER LILY

In this delightful *Tradescantia*, the blossoms are rosy pink, with golden anthers, and appear in continuous succession from May to October, though late spring is when the plants show solid masses of bloom. It is of the easiest possible culture, and everyone who sees it likes it. Tolerates full sun or light shade. Grows to about 18 inches, quickly forming showy clumps. Each 20c; 3 for 50c; 7 for \$1.00.

HARDY WHITE SPIDER LILY

Here the flowers are of snowiest whiteness, but the anthers are blue in deep contrast. Like all *Tradescantias* it tends to be ever-blooming, and is easy, fully hardy, and of rare satisfaction to possess. Each 25c; 3 for 60c.

CALL THEM BULBS

Even though the intriguing kinds offered here may not be truly bulbs, we might just as well call them so, for they are very bulb-like, and are handled and planted in the dormant or semi-dormant state in precisely the same way as bulbs. They are really good.

PLEASE NOTE: Bulbs are not prepaid and are sent by express collect unless remittance includes postage allowance. For postage and packing, add 5% east of Pittsburgh and north of Potomac, 10% beyond to Mississippi, and 15% for destinations further west.

CANDYSTICK TULIP—Elongated blossoms, banded with brilliant cherry on a ground of misty, pink-flushed cream. A charming miniature for the rock garden. Called also Lady Tulip, and botanically, *Tulipa Clusiana*. 3 for 35c; 11 for \$1.00; 25 for \$2.00.

THE PINK FRITILLARY—*Fritillaria pluriflora*. Many large open bells of pure deep rose. Very beautiful. Likes a bit of shade. Almost a Lily, but rarer and daintier than most Lilies. Ten inches. Each 20c; 3 for 50c; 10 for \$1.50.

JUST CROCUSES—I always watch for the first *Crocus* blossoms. There may be other flowers just a bit earlier, but none that are so luxuriantly colorful, or that give so much of that "Spring is here" feeling. In this blend there are all the gay *Crocus* hues; lavender, blue, purple, white, striped, yellow and the rest, in bulbs of blossoming size, large enough to naturalize wonderfully, or to give effective bloom-clumps year after year in the rock garden. 10 for 20c; 50 for 85c; 100 for \$1.75.

IRIS DUTCH AND SPANISH—Named sorts, grown separately, in many rare colorings, are in this mixture, all true Bulb Irises, varieties and hybrids of *Iris xiphium*. The blossoms are very like orchids, at least in reminder, and particularly long-lasting as cut flowers. They have been called Poor Man's Orchid, but rich men are glad enough to grow them, too, for they are exceedingly beautiful. There will be russet and smoky bronze combinations; pale blue, indigo, rich yellow, white, softly tinted. Hardy and easy. Size "B," nice blooming size. 1 for 50c; 36 for \$1.00; 100 for \$2.50.

CALLIPRORA IXIODES SPLENDENS—Pretty Faces. Salmon yellow to golden buff flowers, each petal with a single brown stripe in the center. The blossoms, large and star-shaped, are carried in up-facing umbels on 18-inch stems. Handsome, easy and hardy. Sometimes classed as a *Brodiaea*. 4 for 25c; 9 for 50c.

SUNBRIGHT—A hardy tuberous-rooted succulent of most alluring beauty, in bloom all summer long. The blossoms, of luminous cherry rose, are carried in airy sprays on stems so fine as to be near-invisible, giving the odd effect of flowers floating in air. The leaves are brittle pencils of silver-powdered green in erratic tangle. Grows about a foot high. Particularly recommended. Botanically it is *Talinum calycinum*. Each 20c; 3 for 50c; 7 for \$1.00.

BLACKBERRY LILY—This most interesting plant, *Belamcanda chinensis*, seems to be a sort of connecting link between *Ixia* and *Iris*. The foliage and the root habit are *Iris*-like, but the blossoms, carried high on slender branching stems in informal sprays are those of *Ixia*, yet the coloring would be odd in either family, for it is an apricot-tinged orange, spotted freely with rich crimson. After the flowers come ornamental seed clusters, like great glossy blackberries. These are often cut, then dried to use in winter decorations. The blossoms, too, make a nice cut flower. The Blackberry Lily is winter-hardy. 40 inches. 20c each; 3 for 50c; 7 for \$1.00.

ALLIUM UNIFOLIUM—Slender foot-high stems that carry graceful clusters of bright rose-pink flowers. Easy and handsome. 3 for 25c; 10 for 65c.

ORNITHOGALUM UMBELLATUM—The Hardy Star of Bethlehem. Enormous quantities of pure white up-facing flowers in robustly branching umbels. Dwarf. Very pretty. A rugged individualist that needs no fostering care. 10 for 40c; 25 for 90c; 100 for \$3.00.

THE COPPER IRIS—**IRIS FULVA**—Open, airy flowers in a most unique shade that lies between new copper and bronze, deepening to brown velvet toward the center line. Of full winter hardiness. Not, of course, a bulb, but may be treated as one. Each 20c; 3 for 50c; 7 for \$1.00.

LEWISIA REDIVIVA—Here the blossoms are even larger, and tinted with a pure clear pink, the petals with a texture like spun silk. Flowers in late spring, starting when *Lewisia brachycalyx* is well over. All *Lewisias* like well-drained soil in full sun, but should not be allowed to suffer from dry weather. No lime. Each 25c; 3 for 60c; 10 for \$1.75.

WINE CUPS—This is *Callirhoe involucrata*, a magnificently showy half-trailer for the front of the border, the rockery, the terrace, or to carpet a dry bank. Big cups of showy wine-crimson for months. Revels in heat and drought. Good solid tubers, each 20c; 3 for 50c; 7 for \$1.

ASCLEPIAS TUBEROSA—Butterfly Flower. Usually brilliant orange, but may vary from sulphur to flaming scarlet. One-season tubers, ready to bloom. 3 for 25c; 10 for 65c

MERTENSIA VIRGINICA—Clustered blossoms, pink in the bud, open to crinkled silken bells of pure coerulean sapphire. Handsome basal leaves of blue-tinged green. Two feet or more. Full hardiness. Tolerates light shade, but prefers deep rich soil. Spring. 3 for 35c; 10 for \$1.00.

LILY OF THE VALLEY

Everyone knows this lovely perfumed flower with its drooping bells of dainty waxen whiteness. It is hardy, increases rapidly when once it feels at home, and really prefers those shady corners (if the soil be not dry and baked) where it is hard to get other things to grow. Try it on the north side of the house, or colonize it where shrubbery arches.

LILY OF THE VALLEY WHITE BELLS—Charming white bells, pendant in graceful sprays. Sturdy individual pips, field grown. 10 for 40c; 30 for \$1.00; 100 for \$2.65

LILY OF THE VALLEY PINK BELLS—In this truly rare variety, the blossoms are suffused with pink. Good pips, 3 for 50c; 7 for \$1.00.

HORTICULTURAL BOOKS

Here are books worth reading. All offered can be supplied promptly. Prices are post-paid. Please note, though, that since I am neither a circulating library nor a second-hand book store, I cannot very well allow return of books once sent out. There is, by the way, no finer present for a garden-loving friend than a book of this kind.

HORTUS—This is a concise dictionary of gardening, giving brief descriptions, with to-the-point notes on cultural requirements and uses, on over 5,000 different plants of garden interest. Both common and botanical names. Any real gardener needs it. 652 pages. \$5.00.

THE GARDENER'S BED-BOOK—Wright. This is not a manual, nor a book of instructions. It is just a book of "Short and Long Pieces to be Read in Bed by Those Who Love the Green Growing Things of Earth," for, of course, "All Gardeners Read in Bed." Delightful, witty, inspiring, yet filled with rich nuggets of practicality. \$2.50.

THE FLOWER-FINDER—Walton. Here is all the information the beginner needs to identify wild flowers quickly. The classification and identification charts are so simplified that one needs no previous botanical knowledge, nor definitions of botanical terms, to find the name of any wild flower, quickly and easily. 18 half-tone engravings and 573 pen-and-ink drawings. \$2.50.

MY ROCK GARDEN—Farrer. 300 pages of help and instruction in the building of the rock garden. Directions are pertinent and to the point. Written particularly for the amateur. Gives also descriptions of plants for rock garden use, all in Mr. Farrer's inimitable and unique style. Illustrated. \$3.00

WESTERN AMERICAN ALPINES—Gabrielson. Until one has this book, he can scarce realize the wealth of alpine beauty available as garden material from our western mountains. One will want to try them all when they read the alluring descriptions. The beginner will be delighted by the new vistas that it opens, the more advanced gardener will need it for constant reference. 260 pages. 124 illustrations. \$3.50.

CYCLOPEDIA OF HORTICULTURE—Bailey. The universally accepted authority on horticulture. Intensely interesting. Three volumes, 3,637 pages. Four thousand illustrations of which 96 are full page, and 24 are color plates. Gives full descriptions and cultural data on thousands of plants. Also general articles. \$15.00.